

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

28 NOV. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Dominican groups remain at loggerheads.

a) A nationwide general strike, called by the National Civic Union, is now in progress. We are not able to say yet how much it has caught on.

b) the strike call came after the opposition and President Balaguer reached in impasse over the former's demand that the government be turned over to a junta dominated by it.

c) Balaguer, whom the opposition accuses of bad faith in his negotiations with it, believes that he has enough backing from the military to control the situation. He has received a pledge of support from armed forces chief Echavarria.

d) our consulate in Santo Domingo is apprehensive, however, that the breakdown in negotiations will encourage moves by extremists of left and right.

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2. French-Algerian negotiations making progress

the negotiations, interrupted by the Ben Bella hunger strike, are again making good headway. Although some of the rebel negotiators are skeptical of De Gaulle's ability to make a settlement stick, the meetings have apparently succeeded in removing, at least tentatively, the fundamental political problems, with the remaining issues being mainly economic.

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3. Dissension in South Vietnam Government

a) Several top military officers, some of whom have been generally circumspect in the past, are now telling our representatives in Saigon that they are determined to force a shake-up in the government in the near future and that there is no other route to reform. They appear to be hoping for some form of US approval before going further.

b) the disgruntled officers are particularly bitter toward Diem's brother and principal adviser, Ngo Dinh Nhu and the latter's wife, whom they represent as the real powers in the regime and the main opponents of changes.

c) press criticism of US policy which was touched off by Ngo Dinh Nhu, is continuing. President Diem, following a protest by our Ambassador and the remonstrances of several of his senior advisers, has ordered the campaign tempered but not ended.

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NOTES

- A. The Chinese Communists appear intent on doing considerable lobbying for their point of view at next month's meeting of the World Federation of Trade Unions in Moscow. Their insistence on arguing against Soviet positions at a similar meeting held in Peiping in June of last year, which incensed Moscow, was the signal for the reopening of the Sino-Soviet ideological dispute and the withdrawal of Soviet technicians from China.

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- C. The Austrian government is fearful that it is to be the next object of Soviet pressures. It expects a concerted Soviet effort to block Austrian association with EEC during trade negotiations scheduled to open in Vienna the first of next month.

- D. Nyerere, prime minister of Tanganyika, evidencing extreme neutralistic fears of offending the Soviet Bloc,

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- E. Quadros plans to return to Brazil at the beginning of next year to reenter politics. Quadros still has his sights on recapturing his country's highest post.

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